

# THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S  
USERS GROUP  
NEWS LETTER

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\*\*\*\*\*  
SEPTEMBER 1987

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## MEETING

The SEPTEMBER meeting will be:

on: FRI., SEPTEMBER 18, 1987

at: 7:30 P.M.

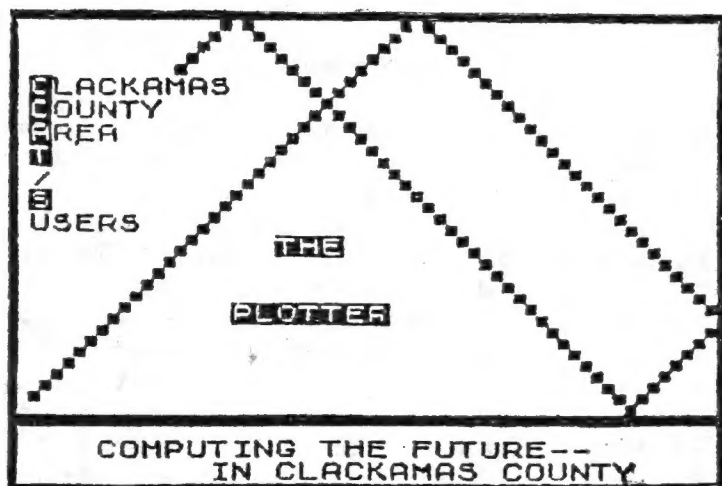
in: COMMUNITY ROOM

FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L  
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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## Chairman's Corner

A hearty Thank You is in order for Dick Wagner, for standing in for me during the last meeting. This allowed me a much needed vacation!

There is not much new to report this month. It seems a lot of other folks were on vacation as well.

We have a repeat demonstration of Dwayne Hewitt's RGB modification to a normal color TV scheduled for the next meeting. Hope to see you there!

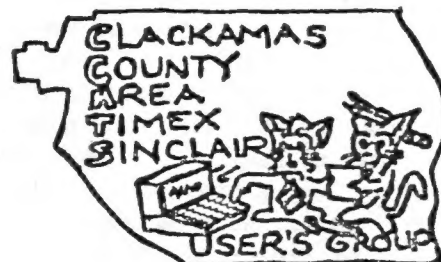
We also need some more topics and/or presentors, so bring your ideas with you.

Elections will be upon us in a few weeks. Now is the time to think about which office you wish to hold or who you might wish to nominate. There was not much turnover in officers last year. I would like to see all of you express your ideas in this area. Or, better yet, nominate yourself!

One last word, the Time Designs sponsored mini-fest is this month. Make plans to be there!

Bye,

Syd Wyncoop



by Jack Armstrong

Dick Wagner, in Syd Wyncoop's absence, called the meeting to order at 7:45. The first subject that was discussed was the upcoming Seattle Mini-Fair to be held on Sept. 26th. During the discussion Rod asked for volunteers to man the CCAT/S table. It seems that in order to cover the 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. hours, that all attending members should take part in this endeavor for 2 hour shifts. There was further discussion about the attendance of the Vancouver Club and the Seattle club as well as many individuals, Tim Woods pointed out. Next on the agenda was a discussion of the round-robin tapes and their current location. After that there followed a discussion of our financial status. Rod and Dick happily reported that we are in fine shape. It was announced that our next meeting will be on the 3rd Friday of September and Duane Hewitt will deliver a demo and talk on one of his own projects. Dick Wagner mentioned that he now had the Larken DOS and SPDOS (Ramex) running on his Oliger system. He can MERGE on SPDOS or the Larken and then switch in the Oliger. Dick wants more articles, reviews, comments for Plotter material. He and Rod verified that our TS Horizons sub will be filled by CTM magazine. The first issue is in the library. It is strong on Ham radio & Hacking generally. There is material on all Sinclair-timex based computer machines as well as others. Rod has a new Vince Lyon program: QL Sound Explorer. Rod handed out sheets of Timachine de-bugs and announced vast changes for his own catalog. He also has LKW's MAKEDOS. There followed a lively discussion on DOS's, RAM disc and the Larken system. Dick passed out sheets for alts to VU-CALC and gave a lengthy talk on the merits to dump to a big printer and formatting the columns for budget and accounting uses. Duane Hewitt showed his TV converted cheaply to an RGB. Watch for upcoming article. Tim had his wife & son with him and at his suggestion it was voted to produce 100 extra copies of Plotter for the Fair in Seattle. Meeting over at 9:30.

After the summer doldrums you can get back into the computing mood by attending the GREAT NW MINI COMPUTER FEST. From the last issue you learned that it will be on Sat. Sept. 26, 1987 in Seattle. More news is that you will have received flyers by this time. Also, 'icing on cake' will be Bill Dunlop's recent acquisition of a bus and he is providing transportation at a minimal cost. How can you refuse such a combination??

I recently ran across a simple construction article for hardware that will adapt ANY computer (with visual display) to a relay controlling system of electrical/mechanical devices. This appears to be a device worthy of testing on the inactive TS 1000. Assuming all goes well, it will be demonstrated at one of our meetings.

The September meeting will be on the 3rd Friday, 18th in place of the second Friday. Sorry but that 4 wheel club signed up ahead of me. Far West permits reservations only 2 months ahead so early July was the time I had to make the reservation but someone was a few days ahead of me.

QL programs have been few and far between. Space permitting, there will be a short program in this issue. We really haven't had any QL material since Vince Lyon ceased producing his QL column. Not being conversant with the QL system, it is my guess as to what would be interesting.

I took the liberty of sending our CCATS mailing list plus our exchange list to Gulf Micro Electronics Bill Jones. He is soon to be publishing a quality quarterly newsletter of interest to 2068 users. For those using the Oliger SAFE DOS there will be spspecific articles on this subject. See my article on this project. For \$12.00 you can get a lot of information in a year so it is a good addition to your

## ***BITS & BYTES***

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, 10 AM- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

THE GREAT NW TS MINI-FAIR-is fast approaching!! **ONLY 1 MONTH TO GO!!** this was just a glimmer of an idea We are hoping for a great turn-out! We have heard of several people who will be attending from as far away as Michigan. We hope to see people from Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and Canada. The location is not set for the SEATTLE MASONIC TEMPLE at 801 E. PINE STREET in Seattle. The date, again, is set for SEPTEMBER 26, 1987. Hours are 9 AM to 6 PM on that Saturday. There are 7 Seminars booked and 2 more pending. Something for everyone. A lot of people are planning to come to Seattle on Friday and stay over until Sunday. It will make a nice mini-vacation. Seattle has a lot to offer in the way of things to see and do. There will be a snack bar at the Fair and there are 5-6 places to eat within 5 blocks of the Temple. If you have hardware or software that you would like to swap or sell, be sure to bring it along, as there will be a swap table area open to all. If you are reading this and did NOT receive a flyer in the mail on the Fair, be sure to let us know and we will get one to you. The flyer has a couple of coupons on the back from the Fair sponsors, TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE and RMG ENTERPRISES. The schedule of speakers is now as follows:

9:15 AM 68000 ARCHITECTURE  
by: MICHAEL CARVER  
10:10 AM Z80 MACHINE CODING  
by: SYD WYNCOOP  
11:05 AM QL ARCHIVE EXPLORED  
by: VINCE LYON-EXECUTIVE SW

12:00 N TELECOMMUNICATIONS

by: JIM BALAZIC

12:55 PM DISK DRIVES

by: JOHN SEARCE

1:50 PM ZX81/TS1000-

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

by: WILF RIGTER

2:45 PM 80 COLUMN PRINTERS

by: DICK WAGNER

3:40 PM CP/M OVERVIEW

by: SYD WYNCOOP

4:35 PM (OPEN SLOT AT THIS TIME)

As noted earlier, these are to be 45 minute talks and should prove interesting. We also have plans for video taping these seminars and offering the tapes at a nominal charge. There will also be, as previously noted, quite a few door prizes to be won. **WE WILL SEE YOU THERE!!**

RMG ENTERPRISES-has just announced the release of a new QL program that will allow you to seriously experiment with the QL's sound system. The title is EXECUTIVE SOUND EXPLORER and it sells for only \$14.95 plus shipping. This is similar to the very successful program for the 2068 called SOUNDESIGN. Using just a few keys, you can create thousands of different sounds! The new program was written by Vince Lyon of Executive Workshop. For more info contact RMG ENTERPRISES, 1419 1/2 7TH STREET OREGON CITY, OR 97045 or phone: 503/655-7484.

ZEBRA SYSTEMS-has just put out a new catalog! If you are not on their mailing list and would like to be, please send a note to them at: ZEBRA SYSTEMS, 78-06 JAMAICA AVENUE, WOODHAVEN, NY 11421.

WMJ DATA SYSTEMS-has acquired the rights to ZXPROFILE and PROFILE 2068 from TOM WOODS. They will be selling both programs to the public as well as your local dealers.

FD-68 USER NEWSLETTER-has disappeared! No one seems to know what has become of David Hill, the Editor of that publication. Your writer last spoke to David at the Indy Fest and was told at that time that there would be a NL out in a few weeks. Now, his phone and mail are unanswered!

## A 2068 NEWSLETTER

There will be a new kid on the block in October!!

I have received information on a SAFE DISK UP-DATE users newsletter to be published 4 times a year. SAFE DISK is the Oliger disk drive system. PLEASE don't stop reading now because you don't have this system, or even own a disk drive.

This news letter is only directed to this system as it will be the DOS considered. Many other interesting features will be: building block concepts; software and hardware articles and reviews; computing with disk drive systems; technical features such as schematics, data sheets and interfacing; programming with BASIC, assembly, SDOS; a catalog section to tell where to find it; an Editor's column; electronic data such as commonly used formulas, symbols and tables; subscriber free ads for swap, sell, trade, and wanted items.

Gulf Micro Electronics is well launched into the venture with October set for the first issue. The issue was assembled in July so it should be on schedule. I have seen the cover sheet and the section dividers all nicely done for 3 ring binders.

John Oliger will have an information column, Q & A specific to his SAFE DOS, there will be articles and programs on many subjects from readers. The Editor, Bill Jones, will be covering a wide range of pro-gramming techniques in BASIC and assembly languages (probably using TIMECHINE assembler). A great deal of this information comes from developing the Smart Text programs which to date is strong on advance BASICs. Another interesting point is using the disk system as a memory bank so the size of the computer memory is secondary to tremendous memory capacity. How about a full length novel stored on disks (multi drives) and sent to the printer in proper order with desired headings, page numbers, etc? Bill can tell the reader how it is done.

Another step in desk top printing is the programming to print a page in 2 columns without backing up the paper (not all printers will back space). I have seen such a page with page number, blocks left for later inserts, and the preliminary program to do it. These subjects are described to give the reader an idea of Bill's programming ability.

The reader can subscribe to this 8 or more paged news letter by sending \$12.00 to Gulf Micro Electronics, 1317 Stratford Ave., Panama City, FL 32404. Subscription will be by 4 issues and orders into a publishing year will date back to the October.

## A QUICKY

DICK WAGNER

Are you tempted to use UNLESS as a conditional? It would be nice and you can get the same result as: XXX IF NOT (condition) THEN (statement) like this:

```
10 LET C$="Y" UNLESS INKEY $="N"
so use this replacement form:
10 IF NOT (INKEY $="N") THEN LET
C$="Y"
```

How about the modifier UNTIL? Sinclair BASIC doesn't support UNTIL as in:

```
10 LET Z=Z-21 UNTIL Y<=52
try:
10 LET Z=Z-21
20 IF NOT (Y<=52) THEN GOTO 10
```

Do you need a FREE for your TS 1000?

A good report of the amount of memory remaining is given by:

```
9998 PRINT PEEK 16386-16412+
256*(PEEK 16387-PEEK16413)
```

How about the program length in bytes for the TS 1000?

```
10 PRINT PEEK 16396+256*PEEK
16397-16509
```



# QL BANNER

Tim Swenson

Ed Note: From Timelinez March, 1987 issue.

This is a little neatsy-keen program that I originally wrote years ago, on the ZX81.

The user types up to 10 strings of up to 80 characters each. The strings are then slowly "marched" across the screen, very much like the signs on Bart (San Francisco). The letters start on the right and scroll off to the left.

The screen that is used to show the banner can be fancied up a bit. Playing around with the stipple of the stripes can be fun.

So, here it is. Have fun with it. It might come in handy someday.

```
100 WINDOW 512,256,0,0 : PAPER 0
: INK 4
110 DIM a$(10,80)
120 clear_data
130 set_screen2
140 get_all
150 get_screen1
160 REPEAT loop
170 FOR x = 1 TO 10
180 IF LEN(a$(x)) < 2 THEN NEXT x
190 LET length = LEN (a$(x))
200 LET start_s=1 : LET last_s=1
210 FOR y=1 TO LEN(a$(x))+32
220 PAUSE 10
230 LET key=KEYROW(0)
240 f_key
250 IF key<>0 THEN GO TO 160
260 LET start_at = 32-y
270 IF y>32 THEN start_at=0
280 LET x$a$(x)&" "
290 AT 4,start_at : PRINT
x$(start_s TO last_s)
300 LET last_s=last_s +1
310 IF y>31 THEN let start_s =
start_s +1
320 NEXT y
330 AT 4,0: PRINT " "
340 NEXT x
350 END REPEAT loop
360 DEFINE PROCEDURE f_key
370 SELECT ON key
380 ON key=2
390 set_screen2
400 get_string
410 set_screen1
420 ON key=8
430 clear_data
440 set_screen2
450 get_all
460 ON key=16
```

```
470 set_screen2
480 EXIT loop
490 set_screen1
500 STOP
510 END SELECT
520 END DEFINE f_key
530 DEFINE PROCEDURE set_screen1
540 MODE 8 : WINDOW 512,256,0,0
550 PAPER 0 : INK 4 : CLS
560 CSIZE 3,1
570 STRIP 1 : AT 2,0: PRINT " "
580 STRIP 1 : AT 6,0: PRINT " "
590 STRIP 4 : AT 1,0: PRINT " "
600 STRIP 4 : AT 7,0: PRINT " "
610 STRIP 3 : AT 0,0: PRINT " "
620 STRIP 3 : AT 8,0: PRINT " "
630 STRIP 0
640 END DEFINE set_screen1
650 DEFINE PROCEDURE set_screen2
660 MODE 4 : CSIZE 0,0
670 CLS
680 END DEFINE set_screen2
690 DEFINE PROCEDURE clear_data
700 FOR x = 1 TO 10
710 a$(x) = " "
720 NEXT x
730 END DEFINE clear_data
740 DEFINE PROCEDURE get_string
750 PRINT "Enter String Number
to Re-enter "
760 INPUT x
770 PRINT : PRINT "Enter New
String Message "
780 INPUT x$
790 LET a$(x) = x$
800 PRINT : PRINT "Do You Want
To Do Another? (Y/N)"
810 INPUT x$
830 IF x$="y" OR x$="Y" THEN GO
TO 750
830 CLS
840 END DEFINE get_string
850 DEFINE PROCEDURE get_all
860 PRINT "How Many Message
Strings Do You Want To Enter?"
870 INPUT y
880 PRINT
890 FOR x = 1 TO y
900 PRINT "Enter String Number
#";x
910 INPUT x$
920 LET a$(x) = x$
930 PRINT
940 NEXT x
950 END DEFINE get_all
```

## Fancy Fonts

Have you ever purchased a program that used a character set other than the one that came with your 2068? Ever wished you could duplicate that character set in your programs? Here's how you can do it!

First, there is a system variable, called CHARS, that contains the location of the currently active character set. This is really the address of the character set, less 256, to allow the computer to find the correct character information.

The address of CHARS is 23606 and 23607. CHARS is set to contain 15360 upon turning on your computer. You can verify this by typing:

```
PRINT PEEK 23606+PEEK 23607*256
```

You will find that 23606 contains 0 and 23607 contains 60. This is how we tell the computer where to find the character set so, we can use the above statement to find the fancy character set we are interested in.

Now, load in your program with the fancy characters. BREAK out of the program and type the above statement. Add 256 to answer you just got and write it down. This is the start of the fancy character set.

The length of the character table is 768. This is arrived at by knowing that there are 96 definable characters, each needing 8 bytes of information to define their shape.

We now have all the information we need to 'lift' the character set from the program, for our own use. Type in the proper command to save the character information to whatever storage medium you use. The tape command is:

```
SAVE "name"CODE start,768
```

Remember to use the first number we calculated, in place of the word

'start', in the above command.

The only thing we need to do now, in order to use our fancy characters is to load them and poke the system variable, CHARS.

This is easiest to accomplish if we calculate a start address for our character table, such that it starts on a new page of memory. This allows us to change character sets with a single POKE.

The highest address we can use, without interfering with the UDG's, is 64512.  $64512/256=252$ . We need to remember to subtract 256 before our POKE. The easiest way to do this is to subtract 1 from 252.

Now, type in the needed commands to load your fancy character set and POKE the system variable. The tape commands are:

```
LOAD "name"CODE 64512  
POKE 23607,251
```

Of course, you could load your character set to almost any address. You need only adjust the address in the LOAD command and the value POKED to CHARS, in the above commands.

You can now switch between the character sets at will. All that is needed is to POKE 23607,60, for the normal characters or POKE 23607,251, for the fancy characters.

If you are still using the 2040 printer, this can be used to make the printing more legible. I use a 'fat' character set, for bold printing, to my 2040!

Have Fun!

## N O T I C E

Did you miss the September meeting date change on page 1? It is the 3rd Friday the 18th. A special topic will be a CHEAP but good RGB monitor from an old color TV by member Duane Hewitt. We saw the monitor in action at the August meeting.

Richard Hurd  
POB 153  
Warrenton, OR 97146

August 18th, 1987

Rod Gowen  
1419 1/2 7th Street  
Oregon City, OR 97045

Rod;

I was off by 1 track when I wrote and told you about the discovery I had made in regards to LKDOS and the AMDISK III. I can get 42 tracks per side on the 3" diskette.

I put together a short listing for a utility to convert 40 track formatted diskettes to 42 tracks formatted.

I don't know how popular the AMDISK/LKDOS combination is but I've enclosed the listing.

Sincerely,

*Richard*

```
10 REM 42 TRACK CONVERTER FOR THE AMDISK III & LKDOS  bu Richard Hurd

20 POKE 23658,8: REM CAPS ON
30 CLS : PRINT "1) CAT""2) CONVERT""CHOOSE ONE"
40 IF INKEY$<>"" THEN GO TO 40
50 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 50
60 LET A=CODE INKEY$: IF A<49 OR A>50 THEN GO TO 30
70 CLS : PRINT #4: CAT ""
80 IF A=49 THEN PRINT #1;AT 0.5;"Press SpaceBar For Menu": PAUSE 0: RUN
90 LET save=40015: REM save buffer to disk
100 LET load=40012: REM load disk into buffer
110 LET Sprt=40009: REM Send Drive data to port
120 LET setrk=40003: REM move head
130 LET trac=43300: REM trac # MC variable
140 LET Drv=43301: REM Drive # MC variable
150 REM LOAD TRACK
160 POKE trac,0: POKE drv,2: RANDOMIZE USR setrk
170 POKE drv,2: RANDOMIZE USR sprt: PAUSE 20: RANDOMIZE USR load
180 REM ALTER DIRECTORY DATA
190 BEEP .1,10
200 POKE 45021,42: POKE 45104,80: POKE 45106,82
210 REM SAVE TRACK
220 POKE trac,0: POKE drv,2: RANDOMIZE USR setrk
230 POKE drv,2: RANDOMIZE USR sprt: PAUSE 40: RANDOMIZE USR SAVE
240 CLS : PRINT #4: CAT ""
250 PRINT #1;AT 0,0;"ANOTHER? YES OR NO"
260 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 260
270 IF INKEY$="Y" THEN RUN
280 STOP
290 BORDER 7: PAPER 7: INK 9: CLS
300 PRINT "40 TRACK TO 42 TRACK CONVERSION FOR THE AMDEK AMDISK III FDD"
310 PRINT ""This routine LOADs the Directorytrack into Ram, converts it to 4
2 tracks, then SAVEs it back todisk."
320 PRINT ""Work is done on Drive #0 ONLY!""Make sure that the Write Protect
Tab is OFF!"
330 PRINT ""TAB 3:"Press SpaceBar To Convert"
340 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 340
350 RUN
360 PRINT #4: LOAD "Fcode.CL"CODE : CLEAR 39999: GO TO 290
370 PRINT #4: SAVE "40-42.B1" LINE 360: PRINT #4: SAVE "Fcode.CL"CODE 40000,100
```

Continued from page 2

computer library.

Lately I have been working with two different disk operating systems, both adapted to the 2068 Oliger DOS interface. There will be reports on these 2 systems at later dates- after all it takes a period to learn their operation and use. The Larken system is also being adapted for use with the Aerco disk IF. Question-will I be able to interchange disks made with an Larken Aerco DOS with the Larken Oliger DOS?

Our library has a new newsletter from VISTA of the Vashon Island, Washington, user group. Address is PO Box 199, Vashon WA 98070. Editor is Tony Willing. Membership is 5 strong!. We are on a newsletter exchange basis.

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##### -8- #####

## CCAT/S

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